

It was also resolved that Medals be granted to the following Members of the B.O. U. Expedition to New Guinea:—

Gold Medal to Mr. Walter Goodfellow.

Silver Medals to Dr. A. F. R. Wollaston, Mr. G. C. Shortridge, and Mr. Claude H. B. Grant.

A discussion took place on the subject of the date of the Annual General Meeting of the Union, and the following motion was put to the meeting and carried:—

“That in the opinion of the meeting the Annual General Meeting should be held in February and that the Committee be asked to bring forward the necessary alterations in the Rules at the next General Meeting.”

It was further suggested that for next year the Meeting should be held as early as possible in April.

It was stated that the Committee appointed at the last Annual Meeting to bring out a new edition of the ‘List of British Birds’ published in 1883, had made good progress with the work which, it was hoped, would be ready for press during the winter.

A vote of thanks to the Zoological Society of London for the use of their Office during the past year was unanimously passed, and the Meeting was adjourned.

After the Meeting the Annual Dinner was held, in conjunction with the monthly Dinner of the British Ornithologists’ Club, at Pagani’s Restaurant, Great Portland Street. Fifty members and guests attended.

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XXVI.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications,*

[Continued from p. 351.]

50, ‘*Avicultural Magazine.*’

[*Avicultural Magazine.* Third Series, Vol. ii, Nos. 11, 12; Vol. iii, Nos. 1-7 (Sept. 1911—May 1912).]

In these parts there are a considerable number of articles of general interest, although naturally in the main devoted to

Aviculture. Mr. R. Phillipps gives us "Further Notes on the Regent Bird," with a description of the "playground," "nuptial bower," nest and eggs, as well as an account of nestlings hatched in confinement: Dr. Bahr writes on the birds he kept in the Fiji Islands and furnishes a coloured plate of the Finch *Erythrura pealei*, besides notes on *Calliptilus solitarius* and *Pyrhulopsis taviuensis*, which he tells us are three species which have never before been brought alive to England. Mr. H. D. Astley, in describing bird-catching by the "roccolo" in Italy, descants upon the cruelty of the natives: Mr. H. Wormald writes of rearing the Red Grouse in captivity, and notes as points of interest the bird's "display" and the food it will eat. Messrs. Horsbrugh and St. Quintin have a joint paper on the Secretary-Bird; Mr. C. B. Smith one on the "display" of *Cerionis satyra*; and Mr. E. J. Brook another on Hunstein's Bird of Paradise, with a coloured plate.

Hybrids are the subject of papers by Mr. A. Silver (Finches, with coloured plate of a Brambling and Chaffinch cross), Mr. R. Cosgrave (♂ Canadian and ♀ Wattled Crane), Mr. W. A. Harding (Swainson's and Red-collared Parrakeets), and Mr. J. L. Bonhote (those exhibited at the London Cage-Birds Show), while we may add that the exhibits at other Shows are duly chronicled.

Travel is represented by Mr. Newman's Notes from N.W. Africa, and Mr. Staples-Browne's Diary of Birds seen on the White Nile. Aviary-notes are plentiful, and we may call attention to those of Mr. Dodsworth on the Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon (col. pl.), Mr. C. B. Tiechurst on the Storm-Petrel and Mr. G. H. Gurney on *Guttera pucherani*, though there are many others of almost equal interest: while the periodical accounts of the species in the Zoological Gardens, by Mr. Seth-Smith, are of great value, as enabling us to keep in touch with the doings of the Society, and its latest acquisitions.

The section on practical bird-keeping treats of How to breed Birds (Bonhote), of Tanagers (Townsend), Parrots (Astley), Quails (Seth-Smith), Touracos, Bower-birds and

Birds-of-Paradise (Mrs. Johnstone), the Crow tribe (Meade-Waldo), Insectivorous Birds (Butler), and the feet of Birds (Miss Curey).

### 51. Bent on the Birds of the Aleutian Islands.

[Notes on Birds observed during a visit to the Aleutian Islands and Bering Sea in 1911. By A. C. Bent. Smiths. Misc. Coll., Washington, vol. xxxvi. No. 32. 1912.]

Mr. Bent gives us an account of the birds collected on a voyage up the chain of the Aleutian Islands in the summer of 1911, during which Atka, Kiska, Attu, Tanagra and Alak and the western end of Unalaska were visited. The specimens of birds obtained are referred to about sixty species, and there is a new "subspecies" of Ptarmigan from Tanagra Island. Examples of two other species new to the North American Fauna were collected (*Calliope camskatchensis* and *Emberiza rustica*). The Rustic Bunting, as is well known, is an occasional straggler to the British Islands.

The subspecies of Ptarmigan, *Lagopus rupestris sanfordi*, has been described by Mr. Bent in another paper (Smiths. Misc. Coll. vol. xxxvi. No. 30).

### 52. Berlepsch's Revision of the Tanagers.

[Revision der Tanagriden. Von Hans, Graf von Berlepsch. Sonderabr aus Ber. d. V. Intern. Orn.-Congr. Berlin, 1910, pp. 1161.]

This is a reprint of one of the papers read (or taken as read) at the International Ornithological Congress at Berlin in 1910.

In Selater's 'Tanagrinarum Catalogus Specificus,' published in 1854, 238 species of this Family were included, and referred to 41 genera. In the eleventh volume of the 'Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum' (1886) 380 Tanagers were admitted, and placed in 50 genera. In the present work Graf v. Berlepsch recognises 555 species, and arranges them in 69 genera. These numbers shew the gradual and satisfactory increase of the number of species of Tanagridæ met with as the progress of discovery has advanced.

There may be still, no doubt, a few forms left in the recesses of Peru and Ecuador, but we suspect that the additions yet to be made will not be very numerous.

Two new genera are proposed by Count v. Berlepsch in the present memoir—*Chrysothlypis* for *Tachyphonus chrysomelas*, and *Erythrothlypis* for *Daenis salmoni*.

One new species is described, namely *Chlorospingus hondurasianus*, and 17 new subspecies, or “conspecies,” as Count v. Berlepsch prefers to call them, namely:—

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| 1. <i>Euphonia aurea pileata.</i>        | 9. <i>Compsocoma sumptuosa anti-</i>         |
| 2. ——— <i>ruficeps exsul.</i>            | <i>oquie.</i>                                |
| 3. ——— <i>violacea magna.</i>            | 10. <i>Lanio versicolor parvus.</i>          |
| 4. <i>Calospiza larvata centralis.</i>   | 11. <i>Hemithraupis flavicollis hell-</i>    |
| 5. <i>Iridosornis jelskii boliviana.</i> | <i>mayri.</i>                                |
| 6. <i>Pacilothraupis lunulata inter-</i> | 12. <i>Nemosia pileata nana.</i>             |
| <i>cedens.</i>                           | 13. <i>Hemispingus atripileus chlori-</i>    |
| 7. ——— <i>palpebrosa oli-</i>            | <i>gaster.</i>                               |
| <i>vaceiceps.</i>                        | 14. <i>Buarremon torquatus phylgus.</i>      |
| 8. ——— <i>palpebrosa</i>                 | 15. <i>Psittospiza riefferi boliviana.</i>   |
| <i>cærulescens.</i>                      | 16. <i>Saltator similis ochraceiventris.</i> |
|  | 17. ——— <i>grandis yucatanicus.</i>          |

After a preface, in which many difficult questions relating to the Tanagers are discussed, our author proceeds to the systematic arrangement. He places the curious form *Procnias* at the head of the group, but ranks it as a separate Family “*Procniatidæ*.” If this bird really nests in hollow trees and lays white eggs, it can hardly be associated very closely with the Tanagers.

The systematic list of Tanagers begins with the Euphoniinæ and ends with the thick-billed Pitylinæ. Mr. Ridgway has proposed to transfer the latter group to the Fringillidæ, but Graf v. Berlepsch does not agree to this view. No descriptions are given, though the localities of every species and subspecies are carefully worked out. In spite of this omission, which is much to be deplored, we look upon this essay as a most useful piece of work, which the authors of the proposed history of South American Birds will do well to study carefully. It is based primarily on the collection at Schloss Berlepsch which, as the owner informs

us (p. 1906), contains representatives of 490 out of the 555 forms known to him.

### 53. *Bland-Sutton on the Animals of East Africa.*

[Man and Beast in Eastern Africa. By J. Bland-Sutton, M.R.C.S. Ed. Macmillan & Co. London, 1911. 8vo. 204 engravings on wood.]

This is not a "Bird-book," but it contains a good many stories about birds and other animals, often copied from previous works, and should be read by anyone interested in Eastern Africa. It is not written in the form of a Journal, but contains separate chapters on subjects more or less connected with Zoology, Botany, and Anthropology. The author is evidently a keen observer, and writes well on subjects familiar to him. The "engravings on wood" are in many cases excellent.

The chapters relating to Birds are well illustrated by pictures of Jackson's Whydah-bird (in full male attire shewing off to his troop of modest females), by Colies climbing trees like Woodpeckers, by Kori Bustards with Bee-eaters riding on their backs, and by Nightjars with extraordinary wings and tails. Altogether we have enjoyed reading Mr. Bland-Sutton's volume, and we hope that our readers may do the same.

### 54. *Bonhote on Colour in Pigeons.*

[On Colour and Colour-pattern Inheritance in Pigeons. By J. Lewis Bonhote and F. W. Smalley. Proc. Zool. Soc. 1911, pp. 601-619, pls. xxiii.-xxvi.]

This is a preliminary account of experiments to throw light on the Inheritance of Colour, which are to be continued in future years. The authors consider that, apart from the results which are in harmony with the Mendelian theory, others occur which point to some law or series of laws overriding and modifying (externally at all events) the Mendelian results. In certain cases a consistent deviation from the expected proportions occurs. The paper should certainly be consulted by all interested in Genetics.

55. *Butler on the Finches and Weaver-birds of the Sudan.*

[The Finches and Weaver-birds of the Sudan, being Notes on the group containing the Birds injurious to grain-crops. By A. G. Butler, Superintendent, Game Preservation Department. Khartoum.]

This is an extract from the Fourth Report of the Wellcome Tropical Research Laboratories at the Gordon Memorial College, Khartoum. It deals with two great Families of Finches (Fringillidæ) and Weavers (Ploceidæ), which are probably by far the largest consumers of corn in the Sudan.

Mr. Butler's essay is written in plain and instructive language, and contains excellent information concerning the 76 species which are accused by the corn-growers of the Sudan of being a pest. But Mr. Butler believes that a very small proportion of them will be found to be appreciably injurious to agriculture. So far as his knowledge goes the damage seems to be done entirely by the Finches, and by the abundant Weaver-birds of the genera *Hyphantornis*, *Xanthophilus*, *Quelea*, and, to a smaller degree, *Pyromelana*.

In an additional note Mr. Butler informs us that, as he has lately discovered, the large Calandra Lark (*Melanocorypha bimaculata*) occasionally commits great destruction in the dura crops.

Two coloured plates in this paper represent *Quelea ethiopica* and *Hyphantornis teniopterus*.

56. *Clyde-Todd and Worthington on the Birds of the Bahamas.*

[A Contribution to the Ornithology of the Bahama Islands. By W. E. Clyde-Todd and W. W. Worthington. Ann. Carnegie Mus. vii. 1911.]

The Bahama Islands, though belonging to the Neotropical Region, seem to be one of the favourite resorts of our ornithological brethren in America, and indeed well deserve their close attention. After Mr. Riley and Mr. Chapman, Mr. Clyde-Todd has taken up the task of exploration, and with the efficient aid of Mr. Worthington, has secured a valuable series of 591 specimens of birds for the Carnegie

Museum at Pittsburg. Two hundred and two species (including subspecies) have now been recorded from the Bahamas, and although there are probably only a few more insular forms to be discovered, additions may still be made to the list of water-birds and accidental visitors.

Of the two hundred forms already registered in the Bahaman Avifauna about one half are winter-residents, transients on migration, or casual visitors, leaving only about one hundred species known to reside and breed in the islands. Deducting the water-birds and other widely spread species, Mr. Clyde-Todd finds 41 forms the distribution of which within the group is more or less restricted. These again may be divided into two categories, 31 forms confined to the more northern islands and 10 more or less restricted to the more southern and eastern islands. The former of these may be called "Inaguan" and the latter the "Bahaman" Avifauna, although no hard and fast line can be drawn between the two. At the same time it is obvious that the Bahaman Avifauna is not homogeneous, and that the Ornis of the north-western islands resembles that of Cuba more closely than that of the South-eastern group. After a discussion of these and other points about the distribution of Bird-life in the Bahamas, we have a narrative of the expedition from the pen of Mr. Worthington and a systematic list of the 82 species represented in the collection by Mr. Clyde-Todd. It will be observed that in several cases the latter writer does not quite agree with previous authorities as to the validity of some of the "subspecies" that have been instituted for the Bahaman local forms. In some instances it is evident that the differences pointed out are indeed very small and apparently hardly constant.

57. *Du Bois on the Hornbills.*

[Genera Avium, conducted by P. Wytzman. Part II. Bucerotidæ, by Dr. A. Du Bois. Brussels, 1911.]

The Hornbills are clearly divisible into two subfamilies—the Ground-Hornbills (Bucorvinæ) and the Tree-Hornbills (Bucerotidæ). Of the former there are only two well-marked

species and a somewhat doubtful third. Of the latter sub-family, M. Du Bois recognises 16 genera and many species. All the genera and species are shortly diagnosed, and their distribution is given. Three well drawn coloured plates illustrate some of the more remarkable forms.

### 58. 'The Emu.'

[The Emu. A Quarterly Magazine to popularize the Study and Protection of Native Birds. Vol. xi. pts. 3, 4 (Jan., April, 1912).]

In a paper by Mr. A. J. Campbell entitled "Annotations" we have the descriptions of two new species, *Sericornis halmaturina* from Kangaroo Island, and *Pseudogerygone jacksoni* from Mogil Mogil, N.S.W.; while Mr. H. L. White further describes the nest and eggs of the latter, as well as of *Megalurus striatus* (cf. p. 214). Mr. Campbell also withdraws the supposed new species *Eopsaltria hilli* (Emu, vol. x. p. 168).

Mr. McLean continues his account of the Bush Birds of New Zealand, wherein he redescribes the nest of *Acanthidositta chloris*, and informs us of the growing scarcity of *Anthornis melanura*, but says that *Clitonyx albicapilla* is still holding its own. His notes are long and full of interest. Mr. Bassett Hull also adds to his "Avifauna of the New South Wales Islands" as a result of visits to the Tollgate group, where he found *Eudyptula minor*, *Puffinus sphenurus*, and *Pelagodroma marina* breeding, and to the Montague Islands, where he again met with the first two of these species.

Mr. Whitlock gives further notes from the Stirling Ranges, where he has been collecting for Mr. White, especially with regard to the nesting of *Hylacola cauta*, *Calamanthus montanellus*, and *Falcunculus leucogaster*.

Drs. Cleland and Johnston write at length on the red blood-cells of Vertebrates—especially birds; and Dr. Shufeldt on eggs in the collection of Mr. E. J. Court. Shorter notes are furnished on Riverina birds by Capt. White, on *Calamanthus albiloris* by Mr. Chandler, on *Tribonyx mortieri* by Miss Fletcher, and on *Ptilotis cassidix* by Mr. Wilson.

The Eleventh Annual Session of the R. A. O. U. took place at Sydney; and the Report, with the retiring President's Address, is given in full. Mention is made in it of the increased scarcity of *Lopholæmus antarcticus* and of the proposed protection of Birds-of-Paradise in British New Guinea.

59. *Flower on the Giza Zoological Gardens.*

[Zoological Gardens, Giza, near Cairo. Report for the Year 1911. By the Director. Cairo, 1912.]

The thirteenth Annual Report on the progress of the Zoological Gardens at Giza, near Cairo, gives a most satisfactory account of this Institution, which is well known to all visitors to Egypt. Birds are obviously not of such importance in Zoological Gardens as Mammals, and the greater part of the information supplied in this Report relates to the latter. But Birds are by no means forgotten at Giza, especially when Shoe-bills (*Baleniceps rex*) are among the "exhibits."

60. *Hartert on two Paradise Birds.*

[Notes on the Paradisidæ figured on Plates VII. and VIII. Nov. Zool. xviii. p. 604.]

Coloured figures of *Falcinellus astrapoides* and *Astrapia rothschildi* are now given (see 'Ibis,' 1911, pp. 361, 366). The first of these is a most remarkable bird, only known from the single example at Tring. Of *Astrapia rothschildi* a good series has been received from the Rawlinson Mountains, together with a nest and an egg.

61. *Hellmayr on the Titmice.*

[Genera Avium, conducted by P. Wytzman. Part XVIII. Paridæ, by C. E. Hellmayr. Brussels, 1911. (With three coloured plates.)]

This is a second edition of the memoir on the same subject published in 'Das Tierreich' in 1903.

Mr. Hellmayr divides the Paridæ into six subfamilies—

*Parinæ*, *Psaltriparinæ*, *Remizinaë*, *Paradoxornithinæ*, *Panurinaë*, and *Certhipariæ*. He admits 169 species and subspecies of *Parus*, placing all the true British Tits in this genus, and wisely uniting with it such forms as *Lophophanes*, *Cyanistes*, *Paccle*, and others which have been quite unnecessarily separated. Besides *Parus*, Mr. Hellmayr includes in the *Parinæ* *Melanochlora*, *Penthornis*, *Aphelocephala*, and *Sphenostoma*.

In the second subfamily (*Psaltriparinæ*) are included the Long-tailed Tits *Ægithaliscus* (with 11 subspecies), *Psaltria* (with 1 species), and *Psaltriparus* (with 9 subspecies).

We now come to the Bottle-tits, of which 11 species and subspecies of *Remiza*, 13 of *Anthoscopus*, 2 of *Auriparus*, and 1 of *Cephalopyrus* are recognised in the present work.

Lastly, the somewhat anomalous group of Crow-tits (*Paradoxornithinæ*) concludes the *Parine* Series. Though a little eccentric in some parts of their structure (the outer toe in *Cholornis* is reduced to an almost clawless stump), we believe that *Paradoxornis* is more nearly allied to the Tits than to any other birds. Mr. Hellmayr separates *Suthora davidiana* as the type of a new genus "*Neosuthora*."

Three coloured plates attached to this Part contain figures of *Parus nigriloris*, *Remiza pendulina caspia*, *Ægithalus fuliginosus*, and *Anthoscopus unsorgei*, besides details relating to other species.

## 62. Hellmayr on the Tree-creepers\*.

[Genera Avium, conducted by P. Wytzman. Part XV. Certhiidae. by C. E. Hellmayr. Brussels, 1911.]

As belonging to the Family Certhiidae five genera are recognised by the author—*Certhia*, *Tichodroma*, *Salpornis*, *Climacteris*, and *Rhabdornis*. The multitudinous forms of *Certhia* are mostly treated as subspecies. A plate contains a pretty figure of *Salpornis salvadorii*, and details of other species. To *Certhia brachydactyla* is assigned the rank of a species with 13 subspecies.

\* Cf. Das Tierreich, 1903.

63. *Hellmayr on the Nuthatches.*

[Genera Avium, conducted by P. Wytsman. Part XVI. Sittidæ, by C. E. Hellmayr, Brussels, 1911.]

In this essay four genera of the Family of Sittidæ—*Sitta*, *Callisitta*, *Neositta*, and *Daphenositta* are recognised. Under *Sitta* 46 forms are enumerated, but most of these are subspecies. Our familiar Nuthatch is called *Sitta europæa britannica*. *Sitta whiteheadi*, of Corsica, is placed as a subspecies of *Sitta canadensis*. We admit that the two forms are closely allied, but we think that the Corsican bird ought to stand as a separate species.

A nicely drawn plate represents the beautiful *Callisitta formosa* and contains details of other species.

64. *Hellmayr on the Regulidæ.*

[Genera Avium, conducted by P. Wytsman. Part XVII. Regulidæ, by C. E. Hellmayr. Brussels, 1911.]

In the Family Regulidæ the author includes four genera—*Leptopacile*, *Regulus*, *Lophobasileus*, and *Polioptila*. As regards the first three of these we suppose there is no doubt that they are near allies, but whether *Polioptila* should be assigned to the Regulidæ is, we think, a little doubtful. Its distribution is so utterly different from that of the other genera. Herr Hellmayr catalogues 25 forms of *Polioptila*, but the majority of these are subspecies. In a good plate accompanying this part are figures of *Polioptila schistaceigula* and *Regulus tristis*.

65. *Hellmayr on new or rare Birds from Peru.*

[Ueber neue und seltene Vögel aus Sudperu. Von C. E. Hellmayr. Verh. Orn. Ges. Bay. xii. Heft i.]

Herr Hellmayr describes, in his usual careful and accurate manner, some new or rare birds from a collection made by Messrs. H. and C. Watkins at or near Carabaya, in Southern Peru. Two new species are *Automolus watkinsi* and *Thamnophilus marcopatae*. Three specimens of the rare Cœrebinic form *Oreomanes fraseri* were in the collection. They were

obtained in the Eastern Andes, at a height of 11,400 feet above sea-level.

66. *Hilgert on a new Laniarius.*

[*Laniarius funebris degener*, subsp. nov., von C. Hilgert. Nov. Zool. xviii. p. 605.]

Herr Hilgert writes on the races of the African Bush-shrikes allied to *Laniarius funebris*, and decides that they should be referred to three subspecies, which he proposes to call *Laniarius funebris funebris* (East Africa), *L. f. degener* (South Somaliland), and *L. f. atroceruleus* (Abyssinia and North Somaliland).

67. *Index to the 'Hand-list of Birds.'*

[General Index to a Hand-list of the Genera and Species of Birds (Nomenclator Avium tum fossilium tum viventium), Volume V. Edited by W. R. Ogilvie-Grant. London, 1911. 8vo. pp. 199.]

No greater boon could have been offered to working ornithologists than this volume, which is a fifth and final adjunct to the 'Hand-list of Birds' of the late Dr. Bowdler Sharpe. It contains a complete Index to all the generic and specific names used in Ornithology contained in the four volumes of the Hand-list, with a reference to each page at which they are to be found. This enables the user to find the required reference by searching one Index instead of four, and saves the student much time and impatience. This laborious task has been undertaken and executed by Mr. Thomas Wells, Mr. Ogilvie-Grant's chief attendant, to whom all ornithologists should be duly grateful, not omitting to thank Mr. Ogilvie-Grant for his superintendence of the work, and the Keeper of Zoology for sanctioning it.

68. *Jourdain on Corsican Birds.*

[The Bird Life of Corsica. By F. C. R. Jourdain. Reprinted from the 'Proceedings' of the 5th International Ornithological Congress at Berlin in 1910, pp. 370-392.]

After a useful summary of the Ornithological literature on Corsica, and a short description of the physical features

of the country, the author gives a list of 225 species of birds, based upon the results of visits paid to the Island in 1908 and 1909. For fuller details the reader may be referred to Mr. Jourdain's papers in our volumes for 1911 and 1912.

69. *Koch on the Birds of Esthonia.*

[Uebersicht über die Vögel Estlands. Von Oscar Koch. Herausgegeben vom Verein für Naturlande Estlands. Reval & Leipzig, 1911. 89 pp.]

This is a compact little pamphlet on the birds of the above-named country, giving a list of 255 species, with short notes on each. The author's intention is to bring up to date Russow's work 'Ornis Esth-, Liv- und Kurlands.'

70. *Loudon on two new subspecies of Turdus.*

[Zwei neue Drosselformen. Von Harold, Baron Loudon. Reprinted from Reichenow's Orn. Monatsb. Jan. 1912.]

The two new forms are *Turdus pilaris sarudnyi* and *T. viscivorus sarudnyi*, based on specimens collected by the author in Talysch and Transcaspia.

71. *Lönberg on the Birds of the Swedish Zoological Expedition.*

[Birds collected by the Swedish Zoological Expedition to British East Africa, 1911. By Einar Lönberg. Kongl. Svensk. Vet.-Ak. Handl. xvi. No. 5. Upsala and Stockholm, 1911.]

This Report begins with a description of the route of the Swedish Zoological Expedition in British East Africa, and of the country through which it passed. The principal kinds of "Landscape" are then discussed as "Steppe," "Thorn-bush," and "Forest," while Reichenow's views as to the occurrence of nearly related forms in distant and isolated mountains are freely criticised. After some instructive remarks on the general distribution of the birds in East Africa, lists are given of the species found in grass-steppe, forest country, and other special localities. Among these the most important, perhaps, is the list of species obtained south of the Guaso Nyiri and in the "thorn-bush" north of

the same river, as that district has been little visited by collectors. Specimens of about 123 species were obtained here, and their examination proves that the Avifauna of the Guaso Nyiri is nearly allied to that of Somaliland.

The migratory birds recorded by the Expedition were of 29 species, all previously recorded from Eastern Africa.

In the systematic portion of the Report, which follows, general remarks are given on the species, of which specimens were brought home by the Expedition. They are arranged in the same order as in Reichenow's 'Vögel Afrikas,' and a reference is given in every case to that work. Two Ostriches are included in the List—*Struthio massaicus* (representing *S. camelus*) and the very distinct Somali Ostrich *S. molybdophanes*, of which a fine male specimen was obtained on the "Acacia-steppe" south of the river Guaso Nyiri. A new subspecies of Guinea-fowl is described (p. 47) as *Numida ptilorhyncha rendilis*, while *Alseonax pseudo-grisea* (with some doubt) receives a new name (p. 82).

Many field-notes accompany the systematic list of this memoir and greatly increase its value. We know as yet far too little of the habits and manners of the Birds of British East Africa, although our National Collection is abundantly supplied with specimens.

### 72. Martorelli on Falcons.

[Il *Falco feldeggi* Schlegel e I suoi affini. By Prof. Giacinto Martorelli. Reprinted from Atti Soc. Ital. Sci. Nat. vol. 1.]

This article gives a very full account of the Lanner Falcon and its allies, their phases, distribution and so forth, with illustrations of various species.

### 73. Martorelli on Hybrid Pheasants.

[Nota sopra alcuni ibridi fra il "*Diardigallus diardi*" Bp. ed il "*Gennaëus melanonotus*" (Blyth). By Prof. Giacinto Martorelli. Reprinted from Revista Ital. di Orn. vol. i, pp. 75-80, col. pl.]

The author gives an interesting account of the above-mentioned hybrid, and figures the male of the former species and the female of the latter.

#### 74. *Mathews on Australian Birds.*

[The Austral Avian Record. A Scientific Journal devoted primarily to the study of the Australian Avifauna. Edited by Gregory M. Mathews. Vol. i. Nos. 1, 2.]

This new Journal is issued in connection with Mr. Mathews' Museum at Watford, and consists of notes on various subjects of interest that have occurred to him in the course of his large illustrated work now being published. The first part treats of the Australian Cuckoos, and of the dates of issue of Lear's 'Psittacidae' and Müller's 'Naturlijke Geschiedenis, Land- en Volkenkunde.' The second part consists of additions to the author's list of the Birds of Australia (Nov. Zool. xviii. p. 171, see below) and descriptions of new or hitherto undescribed eggs.

It is impossible to comment here on the validity of the new genera, species and subspecies proposed, which are very many in number, and we must wait to see how many of them are accepted by Ornithologists in general when they appear in Mr. Mathews' larger work.

#### 75. *Mathews' Reference-List of Australian Birds.*

[A Reference-List to the Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Nov. Zool. xviii. no. 3, pp. 171-455, Jan. 31st, 1911.]

In his "Introduction" to the last volume of the 'Hand-list of Birds,' the late Dr. Bowdler Sharpe (as on former occasions) severely condemned the practice of naming "subspecies or races with trinomial names." That subspecies "exist in nature"—he goes on to say, "no one can deny," but in his opinion a binomial title would answer every purpose. When we turn over the pages of the memoir now before us we feel much inclined to agree with Sharpe's views. A short time ago (1908) Mr. Mathews presented us with a 'Hand-list of the Birds of Australia,' founded upon Sharpe's 'Hand-list of Birds,' and containing the names and localities of the 880 species and subspecies, which he then considered to be Australian. Now he has altered his plans altogether, and in the present memoir, besides making numerous alterations in nomenclature, has increased the number of Australian forms to about 1450, thus adding

some 570 forms to the Australian Catalogue "at one fell swoop." We quite agree with Mr. Mathews in pronouncing this proceeding to be "revolutionary." Nothing like it, we believe, has been done before, and it is evident that Mr. Mathews takes quite a different view from his fellow workers of what is sufficient variation to necessitate the recognition of a subspecies.

So far as we can make out, the subspecies first described in the present List are about 540 in number. Each of them is accompanied by a short statement as to how it differs from its nearest ally, but the characters assigned to them are in most cases extremely meagre. Such slight variations as being 'paler above' or "darker below" or "size less," especially when there is a difference in locality, seem to Mr. Mathews to be quite sufficient for the foundation of a new subspecies, and he proceeds accordingly. It is quite impossible for us to go into controversy with one who "has personally handled" 30,000 specimens of Australian birds, but we are quite certain that there must be a mistake somewhere, and leave it to others who are better acquainted with the Australian Ornis than we are, to find out where these mistakes are. We shall not on this occasion pursue our usual practice of giving the names of the 570 (supposed) new subspecies. Anyone working on the Birds of Australia must of course consult Mr. Mathews' 'Reference List.' But we observe that he has also made the following new generic names:—

Name.	Type.	Page.
<i>Northiella</i> ,	<i>Psephotus hæmatogaster</i> ,	274.
<i>Neopsephotus</i> ,	<i>Psephotus bourkii</i> ,	279.
<i>Neonanodes</i> ,	<i>Psephotus chrysogaster</i> ,	279.
<i>Neosericornis</i> ,	<i>Sericornis lathamii</i> ,	352.
<i>Tasmanornis</i> ,	<i>Sericornis humilis</i> ,	353.
<i>Magnamitis</i> ,	<i>Diaphorillus woodwardi</i> ,	366.
<i>Eyramitis</i> ,	<i>Diaphorillas goyderi</i> ,	366.
<i>Caloptilotis</i> ,	<i>Ptilotis macleayana</i> ,	414.
<i>Paraptilotis</i> ,	<i>Ptilotis fusca</i> ,	414.
<i>Lophoptilotis</i> ,	<i>Ptilotis leadbeateri</i> ,	414.
<i>Ptilotula</i> ,	<i>Ptilotis flavescens</i> ,	414.
<i>Alisteranus</i> ,	<i>Amadina cincta</i> ,	433.

Very slight, if any, characters are given for these new generic terms; it appears to be considered quite enough to indicate the typical species.

On the whole we cannot consider Mr. Mathews' 'Reference List' to be a satisfactory piece of work, although it must have caused him much time and much trouble. His mode of treatment of the Australian Crows has already been criticized (see Bull. B.O.C. 1912, p. 70), and his proposal to create such a crowd of subspecies is not likely to be accepted by his fellow-workers in Australia, though it may meet the approval of some of the more ardent members of the "new school."

76. *Nelson on two new Nun-birds.*

[Descriptions of two new species of Nun-birds from Panama. By E. W. Nelson. Smiths. Misc. Coll. vol. xxxvi. No. 37. Washington, 1912.]

A single example of each of these supposed new species of *Monasa* was obtained by Mr. E. A. Goldman while working on the Smithsonian Biological Survey of Panama during the winter of 1911. Mr. Nelson has named them *M. fidelis* and *M. similis*.

77. *Nicoll on Birds observed in the Zoological Gardens, Giza.*

[Wild Birds of the Giza Gardens, 1898-1911. By Michael J. Nicoll. Pp. 22.]

This is a second edition of the List of the Wild Birds that have been observed in the Zoological Gardens at Giza, which seems to be a paradise for the feathered race, or perhaps we may say a place of refuge for rare species. Although hardly more than fifty acres in extent the Giza Gardens, which are on the left bank of the Nile opposite to the city of Cairo, seem to be peculiarly attractive to birds of all descriptions, and Mr. Nicoll has added a considerable number to his list of bird-visitors since the publication of his first edition. It now embraces 200 species, of which 187 belong to the Avifauna of Egypt, and 13 are foreigners, presumably escaped from captivity. Seventeen species are known to have bred within the Gardens.

78. *North on Australian Birds and Eggs.*

[Nests and Eggs of Birds found breeding in Australia and Tasmania. Vol. iii. pt. 3. Sydney, Oct. 1911.]

Since we last mentioned this important book (see above, p. 199) another part has reached us. It continues the account of the Order Accipitres, and contains the species of the subfamilies *Accipitrinae* and *Buteoninae*, with the greater portion of the *Aquilinae*. As in the former Parts the details on all the species are copious, and the illustrations of the nests excellent.

79. *Oberholser on the Forms of Collocalia fuciphaga.*

[A Revision of the Forms of the Edible-nest Swiftlet, *Collocalia fuciphaga*. By Harry C. Oberholser. Pr. U.S. Nat. Mus. vol. xlii. p. 11.]

In a previous revision of the genus *Collocalia* (cf. Proc. Ac. Nat. Sc. Phil. 1906, p. 177) Mr. Oberholser had assigned three subspecies to *C. fuciphaga*. He now increases that number to ten, of which he gives descriptions and localities. Three of these—*C. f. aerophila*, *C. f. mearnsi* (Philippines), and *C. f. tachyptila* (Island of Guam) are now described for the first time.

80. *Parrot on the Bee-eaters.*

[Genera Avium, conducted by P. Wytzman. Part XIV. Meropidae, by (the late) C. Parrot. Brussels, 1911.]

After a short general Introduction the author (whose early death we much deplore) shews that the Bee-eaters are divisible into two subfamilies, the *Meropinae* and the *Nyctiornithinae*. In the former he recognises four genera, in the latter two. A good coloured plate illustrates some of the more remarkable forms. Many subspecies are in the List.

81. *Rothschild on the term "Subspecies."*

[On the term "Subspecies" as used in Systematic Zoology. By the Hon. Walter Rothschild, Ph.D., F.R.S. Nov. Zool. xix. p. 135.]

Mr. Rothschild wishes to explain that the term "subspecies" is used by himself, and, he thinks, by most modern systematic zoologists, to replace the term "varietas geo-

graphica." To this practice we quite agree—as also that trinomials should be used only for geographical varieties and not for individual aberrations.

82. *Rothschild and Hartert on their Algerian Explorations.*

[Ornithological Explorations in Algeria. By the Hon. W. Rothschild, Ph.D., and E. Hartert, Ph.D. Nov. Zool. xviii. p. 456.]

We have here a most interesting account of the ornithological results of three visits to Algeria, made by two well-known Members of the Union in 1908, 1909, and 1911. After a general history of the routes taken by the three expeditions and remarks on some of the principal objects attained, we find a "List of the Birds collected and observed," which includes the names of no fewer than 230 species. Concerning each of these field-notes are given, besides systematic observations where such are required. It was not to be expected that novelties would be obtained. Algeria, Marocco, and Tunis are already too well-known for that, but two subspecies are newly named (*Coleus monedula certensis* and *Galerida theklæ hilgerti*), and a large number of useful notes are given concerning *Rhamphocorys clot-bey*, *Cinclus minor*, *Comatibis eremita*, and other rarities.

The Bald Ibis appears to be rare in the district visited, but one specimen was obtained for the authors through a friend, after they left.

Our readers, we are sure, will much appreciate this article, but may be a little puzzled by the changes in nomenclature, which will supply riddles to some of them.

83. *Salvadori on Conurus æruginosus.*

[Note on *Conurus æruginosus* and the allied species. By T. Salvadori, C.M.Z.S. Nov. Zool. xix. p. 84.]

In the 'Catalogue of Birds' (vol. xx.) only four species of the group of *Conurus* allied to *C. æruginosus* were recognised. Count Salvadori, after an examination of additional specimens, principally from the Tring Museum, is now able to admit ten, of which the differential characters and localities are here given.

84. *Salvadori on Pucrasia ruficollis.*

[Nota intorno alla *Pucrasia ruficollis* David et Oust. By Count T. Salvadori. Reprinted from Boll. Mus. Zool. ed Anat. Torino, vol. xxvii. no. 647.]

The author, having received among some specimens from the Italian Missionaries of Chensi in China a male bird of the genus *Pucrasia*, finds that it agrees with the description given by David and Oustalet of *Pucrasia xanthospila* var. *ruficollis*, while he considers that it should stand as a species and not as a subspecies. A key is given to the three species *P. ruficollis*, *P. xanthospila*, and *P. darwini*.

## 85. 'Scottish Naturalist.'

[The Scottish Naturalist, with which is incorporated 'The Annals of Scottish Natural History,' March, April, May 1912.]

In the first of these numbers our energetic coadjutors Misses Baxter and Rintoul record their observations on Migration in the Isle of May during a month in the spring and autumn of 1911, respectively. The greatest rushes of birds were on May 8 and May 27, and many scarce birds were obtained, including continental forms of some British species, while *Phylloscopus trochilus evermanni* and *Calcarius lapponicus* may be mentioned in particular. Notes by Messrs. W. Evans and Baigrie are incorporated.

In the April part the influx of Little Auks in the winter of 1911-12 is discussed by the Editors; Mr. H. N. Bonar writes on the trees used by the Great Spotted Woodpecker for breeding purposes; and Mr. A. L. Thomson gives the first record of the finding of a Sandwich Tern's nest in "Dee," at the Sands of Forvie.

In May Mr. Harvie-Brown begins a paper on the past and present distribution of the Fulmar as a breeding species in the British Isles, and traces its course from the Shetlands to the Orkney group. This paper is part of a full account of the bird, to be published subsequently, and is to be taken as a preliminary instalment, to which—and to the accompanying map—additions or corrections may possibly be made. Mr. Eagle Clarke follows with an article on the

changes of plumage in the Fulmar, which hitherto have been little known and certainly inadequately described.

86. *Van Someren's Studies of East-African Bird-life.*

[Studies of Bird-life in Uganda. By R. A. L. Van Someren, M.D., D.Ph., M.B.O.U., and V. G. L. Van Someren, L.D.S., R.C.S.Ed. London: John Bale, Sons and Danielson, 1911, 25 plates.]

This is a series of 25 photographic plates taken by the authors in Uganda, and illustrating various scenes of Bird-life in that country. Each plate has an accompanying page of letterpress. We have had many lists of the birds of British East Africa and Uganda, but this we believe is the first illustrated work on the subject.

The plates are all good, and some of them may be pronounced excellent.

It may be said that more interesting and characteristic species might have been selected. This is partly true, as we can see Egyptian Geese and Sandpipers without going to Uganda, but it should be recollected that not every sort of bird can be induced to sit for its portrait, and the artist is, therefore, somewhat limited in his choice of subjects.

The letterpress also contains much interesting information, and is the more acceptable as we have as yet received very little information on the habits and customs of the birds of East Africa. It was a mistake, we think, not to have put the birds' names on the plates, as that would have saved many inconvenient researches.

87. *The South African Journal.*

[The Journal of the South African Ornithologists' Union. Vol. vii. No. 2, Dec. 1911.]

In this part we have the first instalment of Notes on a Collection of Birds in the Transvaal Museum from Boror, Portuguese East Africa, made by the writer (Mr. Roberts) and Mr. Kirby. The district is described, and its peculiar climatic conditions, while attention is particularly called to a new species (*Dendromus albifacies*) and three new subspecies

(*Vinago delalandei orientalis*, *Pisorchina capensis pusilla*, and (*Glaucidium capense rufum*) already described in the 'Annals of the Transvaal Museum.'

Mr. Haagner furnishes a further note on the mandibular hook of the Honey-Guide (S. Afr. Journ. 1907, p. 1), now found in *Indicator major* as well as in *I. variegatus*. Bird Notes from East London by Mr. Wood, and a record of the Black-tailed Godwit from Durban by Mr. E. C. Chubb, conclude the part, except for the obituaries of Mr. A. D. Millar and Capt. Shelley.

#### 88. Thomson on Bird-Marking.

[The Possibilities of Bird-Marking, with special reference to the Aberdeen University Bird-Migration Inquiry. By A. Landsborough Thomson. Reprinted from Proc. Roy. Phys. Soc. Edinb. vol. xviii. pp. 204-218.]

The author discusses the various methods of marking birds, the value of the results, and the history of the development of the inquiry. The results obtained are then considered, and an important account added of those of the Aberdeen scheme in particular. This excellent pamphlet should be in the hands of all our readers.

### XXVII.—Letters, Extracts, and Notes.

WE have received the following letter addressed to the Editors:—

SIRS,—In your January issue, page 198, under the heading of "Mathews on the Birds of Australia," there appears the following:—"On the first page we have a reference to Mr. H. G. Barnard's statement in 'The Emu' that the eggs of *Rallina tricolor* are white, a fact entirely opposed to previous experience; we should be inclined to agree with Mr. Mathews, and ask whether a single clutch might not be white, while normal eggs are spotted."

The eggs in question were collected by Mr. Barnard for me, so you will perhaps excuse my taking exception to the